

January 24, 1974

PRESIDENT: The Chair would concur that is correct, and the space under the balcony is off limits for other people, other than employees of the Legislature. And if the chair should be directed otherwise, then that is fine. I'm here, I think in this particular instance, I sit as a presiding officer in between a rock and a hard place, so I am going to call on Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and members of the body. I heard the discussion we had the other day relative to access to the floor and I frankly did not concur to it the other day, but didn't raise a fuss about it. I would like to see this group be able to participate in our activities for today that is what they are here for. For that reason I would at least make the motion that we allow them the access to the areas under the balcony. I move we suspend the rules and for this day, today only in other words, and that we allow them access to the areas under the balcony. With the understanding that each Senator who has been adopted today is responsible for the Jaycee member who has adopted him. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Speaker Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD: Well, Mr. President and members. This is the same situation the J.C.'s are getting a baptism immediately, in government. And I think they will enjoy it whether they are evicted from the sides or not. But I absolutely agree with Senator Carpenter. We've got a set of rules and we are either going to observe them or not. Now in a situation like this. The J.C.'s are an active and a fine group. And I presume that to some degree they are also political active. But the fact remains that if we do not enforce our rules, then when any group comes in here, the League of Women Voters, the Senior Chamber of Commerce, you name them. Then if we are going to follow this precedence we have to give them access to the floor. We are involved in a short session down here where we making, or attempting to make major decisions that involve millions of dollars. And I think out of courtesy to ourselves and respect to ourselves and the people of the State of Nebraska I think we must uphold the the rules and I urge you to vote down the Goodrich motion.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Mahoney, and then Senator Skarda.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President as vice chairman of the Executive Board, I couldn't be in more agreement with my colleague with the Executive Board Senator Proud, and Chairman, Senator Carpenter. If we are to make an exception today, then you are going to have particular group in here day after day under the wings and we are going to start a precedence that this Legislature is going to be very sorry for. And so I say to Senator Goodrich, who is a member of this particular Executive Board he hasn't done a lot of thinking this morning when he wants to open that particular box. Because you are going to have not a 60 day session, but you will be in session on December 25, and this Legislature is going to look awful bad when you start turning down the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and all the other related groups that would be here today studying government.